

Council Meeting
January 8, 2008 – 4:02 pm

The meeting was called to order by President Spaetti, Councilmen Spaetti, Bunner, Ebert, Kroeger, Kress, Cochenour, Winsett, and Attorney Wetherill were present.

Sheriff's Car Order

Shelton, Deputy Auditor Graham, and Chief Deputy McDurmon explained that at budget time it was decided that the Sheriff's department needed to order three cars. The amount that was budgeted was the cost of the vehicles in 2007. The 2008 state quote for the vehicles is 12% higher than 2007 making the budgeted amount short \$9,630. It was not known until after the deadline to have an additional advertised for the January council meeting, but the cars need to be ordered by February 15th which is prior to the February council meeting. It is understood that the council cannot officially make any appropriation of the extra money, but McDurmon was looking for a feeling of how the council will vote if the additional is asked for in February to decide whether or not to order the third vehicle. Kroeger stated that since only enough was budgeted for two only two should be ordered and then order the third when the money is available. Discussion was had on the purchase of used vehicles and the special needs of law enforcement vehicles. McDurmon explained that he does have money in the budget he could use for the vehicle because it is needed, but then he may run short later in the year. Also commissary money could be temporarily used if necessary. McDurmon explained that the Ford law enforcement vehicles have less maintenance, are heavier vehicles and are safer. A quick survey of how most of the councilmen felt revealed that the majority seemed to support the purchase of three vehicles.

Discussion was had on the selling of surplus vehicles and most agreed the commissioners should be encouraged to sell any surplus vehicles.

LTRSD Appointment

Spaetti explained that Winsett asked for a meeting to be scheduled to discuss his appointment to the sewer board. Winsett stated that he was told that according to state statute a person cannot hold two lucrative positions at the same time. Even though it has been done in the past, with the Luce Township Trustee and the Mayor of Rockport, there had been no complaints. If there was a complaint then he could be removed from his council seat. Wetherill stated they did not worry about this initially because it had never been a problem, but according to the bi-laws of the sewer district the board members are entitled to be paid \$50 per day when the majority of their time was spent on sewer business. None of the board members currently accept the pay. Wetherill further stated that it was his opinion that Winsett is correct and it could cause him to lose his council seat. Winsett stated that due to this information he regretfully declines the appointment.

Spaetti stated that the council has two candidates for the position, Feige who lives near Richland on CR 150 South, and Decker who lives in Richland on Adams Street. Kroeger clarified that the appointment is to finish out the term of McMican which will end at the end of April. The council will need to make another appointment at the April meeting. Spaetti asked the two sewer board members who were present, Ingram and Bond, if they could work with either of the applicants. Both said yes. Wetherill also asked both of the applicants if they would be willing to come back to the meetings and keep the council informed. Feige stated that he has come back to meetings intending to advise the council on the issues and has been rejected twice.

Spaetti stated both of the candidates are qualified and asked if each would be willing to work with the other. Bond stated that both should be asked if they are in support of some type of system; a sewer board is not needed to put in septic systems. Spaetti asked Feige and Decker if they would support a system. Decker stated yes. Feige stated that he will support an alternative system such as the one being worked on by Bond if it can be made financially possible. However, if it is stuffed down the residents throats, we will have the same problems we have now. Kroeger asked Feige if he was saying it has to be his system or no system. Feige stated it cannot be the current system and an alternative system has to be affordable for the community.

Cochenour asked Decker if he thought the current system was viable. Decker stated that it possibly could be viable and it is also possible that there are other systems that are viable. Situations have changed since that system was designed and he would not hang his hat on that one without looking at other options. Other things need to be kept in mind. Any system put in will have to be permissible, approvable, and grantable. If IDEM will

not approve it or a grant cannot be received for it, then the money is not there otherwise. He stated that yes the system will work, but he is not able to say if it is the right system for the community. The bottom line is a sewer needs to be in the township, if this system cannot get community support then we need to find a system that will.

Ebert asked Decker if he thought the system should include French Island. Decker stated he would like for sewers to be available for everyone, but in this case he is not sure if it is the right move to go to French Island. The way the situation is right now, it is not working. Something else obviously needs to be done because we are not any further along then we were ten years ago.

Bond stated that he has spoken with Rural Development and changes to the system can be made as long as the permits are there and letters are submitted to them.

Spaetti stated that there are two qualified engineers to choose from. Kroeger stated that the board needs a person who will be open and willing to work with the board. He stated he admires both applicants and appreciates both coming forward.

Kroeger made a motion to appoint Decker to the LTRSD board to complete McMican’s term. Bunner seconded, stating that Decker may have more of an open mind in exploring other options. All in favor with Ebert abstaining.

Kroeger made a motion to adjourn. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Kroeger made a motion to adjourn. Cochenour seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

County Council,

_____ President	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Attest:	_____
_____	_____
Cindy Shelton, Auditor	_____
